

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02
/158 W

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R 150604Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0215
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR MSC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO, AS
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: (A) STATE 066741, (B) STATE 060283

1. ACTING ECONCOUNS DISCUSSED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
(REF B) AND TALKING POINTS (REF A) WITH R.H. TAYLOR,
DEPUTY SECRETARY (SURFACE), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT.

2. CONCENTRATING PRINCIPALLY ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
TAYLOR MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A. RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS; GOA WELCOMES
PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE IN RATIFICATION AND SUPPORTS IN
PRINCIPLE. BEFORE AUSTRALIA CAN RATIFY, CONSIDERABLE PORT
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MODIFICATIONS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN. THAT THIS WORK HAS NOT
BEEN DONE IS LARGEMLY A QUESTION OF COST.

B. SHIP CONSTRUCTION; GOA BELIEVES MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD
BE GIVEN TO UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN IMCO STANDARDS. AS
ONLY ONE PERCENT OF AUSTRALIAN BULK TRADE CARRIED IN
AUSTRALIAN BOTTOMS, TAYLOR SAID IT VITAL THAT AUSTRALIA

SEEK SUCH UPGRADED STANDARDS. HE SAID HE AFRAID SOME OF US PROPOSALS WOULD PROVE TOO COSTLY TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE AS IMCO STANDARDS.

C. CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING; TAYLOR SAID THAT IN GOA VIEW THIS PERHAPS SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF WHOLE ANTI POLLUTION BATTLE. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIA PRIDED ITSELF IN HAVING AMONG HIGHEST STANDARDS IN WORLD, HE REALIZED THAT WHAT WAS REALLY NEEDED WERE STRICT MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM. HE SAID U.S. COULD EXPECT FULL GOA SUPPORT ON ANY INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD.

D. TANKER BOARDING PROGRAMS; AUSTRALIA HAS, AND USES POWER TO DETAIN TANKERS AND ORDER REPAIRS. TAYLOR PUT FORTH AS HIS PERSONAL SUGGESTION POSSIBLE INVESTIGATION INTO FEASIBILITY OF IMCO DEVELOPING SOME SORT OF "BLACK-LIST" OF UNACCEPTABLE TANKERS. HE SAID WORD "BLACK-LIST" MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT THOUGHT CONCEPT HAD MERIT.

E. POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION; TAYLOR SAID GOA APPROVES U.S. INITIATIVE IN PRINCIPLE AND IS IN PROCESS OF INITIATING OWN LEGISLATION TO MEET CRITERIA OF LATEST IMCO CONVENTION.

F. IMPROVEMENT OF ABILITY TO RESPOND TO OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCIES; AUSTRALIA APPROVES U.S. INITIATIVES. AUSTRALIA HAS ITS OWN NATIONAL PLAN WHICH HAS WORKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECTIVELY IN PAST, ALTHOUGH TANKERS INVOLVED HAVE ALL BEEN RELATIVELY SMALL.

3. TAYLOR SAID U.S. COULD GENERALLY COUNT ON AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT IN IMCO FORUM, ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT RATHER ARCHLY THAT AUSTRALIA NO LONGER A MEMBER OF IMCO COUNCIL, "IF YOU CARE TO REMEMBER IT THE NEXT TIME VOTES COME AROUND."

4. TAYLOR SAID GOA HOPED TO SEND SOMEONE FROM CANBERRA TO MSC MEETING IN LONDON, BUT CURRENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS MIGHT PRECLUDE IT. IF THIS CASE, AUSTRALIA WILL BE REPRESENTED BY RESIDENT EXPERT PAT CROAN. HE ASSURED US THAT WHOEVER REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA, WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE WELL BRIEFED ON PROPOSED USG COURSE OF ACTION AND INSTRUCTED TO LEND SUPPORT. PERCIVAL

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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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